resolution of his men to the Iskosol: "The regiment will defend its elected commander with arms and asks other troops to support it in the struggle for soldiers' rights."

The Iskosol decided that Wirt must be arrested. Parsky concurred. "This is open revolt," he said. "It must be broken. But I think you should go ahead without officers." The same evening the Iskosol organized a task force of units in the army reserve—two infantry regiments, several squadrons of cavalry, several batteries, a division of tanks. The Iskosol men explained the situation to each unit. Before dawn, Wirt's regiment was surrounded by the Iskosol's troops.

With Kuchin, who directed the operation, I arrived on the scene at 2:00 A.M. and waited in the car. Kuchin was ready to send a trumpeter to deliver an ultimatum to the rebellious regiment when I proposed another tactic. "The men are hysterical," I said. "Somebody may fire. Our troops will answer in kind. Won't it be better if I arrest Wirt in his tent?" Kuchin accepted my plan. He deployed the tanks in a long file on the road beside the camp, and we agreed that, as soon as the lookouts on the road noticed movement or heard noise in the camp, the lights of the tanks would be turned on and the troops would be alerted for action.

The camp was separated from the road by broad exercise grounds. Contrary to regulations, no sentries were in sight. I crossed the grounds unchallenged. Wirt's tent was the first on the right, in the front row. I went in and called loudly, "Sergeant Wirt, get dressed! I am Commissar Woytinsky. You are under arrest."

Men jumped from the bunks. Someone lit a candle. Wirt stood before me in his underwear, repeating, "You will hang me?"

"You know very well," I replied, "that we do not hang people. But you will go to jail."

The camp woke up, and the tent filled with excited men. The place was flooded with light. I saw the line of our tanks over the heads of men at the entrance. Trumpets on the road sounded the attack. Other trumpets repeated the signal from the forest. I said to Wirt, "You will not compel us to use force. Be quick about it and follow me."

Then I stepped out of the tent so as to face the crowd in the open air and to be seen from the road. Lights now were seen all around the camp. I shouted, using all the strength of my lungs, "Attention! One regiment cannot defy the army. Here are our tanks. . . . There are our batteries. We don't want to use them, but we mean business. Wirt, are you ready?"

Wirt, fully dressed, said in a choked voice, "You cannot do this to me!"